

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to my appointment to the Science, International Relations and Resources Committees I wish to tender my resignation for the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN FRANK TEJEDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary colleague whom we lost to cancer, Congressman Frank Tejeda. Congressman Tejeda's life is an inspiration to all Americans for his was a story of hard work, dedication and perseverance, and those qualities symbolize the American dream that all of our citizens can reach.

After dropping out from high school at the age of 17, Congressman Tejeda joined the Marines, where he bravely served our Nation in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

After his incredible military career he returned to his academic studies, where he demonstrated that dedication and perseverance he showed on the battlefield, earning degrees from the University of California, from Yale and from Harvard.

In Congress he was a tireless warrior for the less fortunate of our Nation, as well as for the constituents of his beloved city of San Antonio, and he was committed to maintaining excellence in the military that he so honorably served. This great institution was honored to have Congressman Tejeda among its Members.

His life should be a source of inspiration to all, but especially to the thousand of young Hispanics who look for role models in their daily lives. Frank will be truly missed by all of us in this institution.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from

Florida for her remembering our colleague, Frank Tejeda.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, a high quality learning environment is essential to educating our Nation's children. Many may wonder why the President last night spent so much time on the issue usually discussed by State and local government.

Well, I believe his concern is warranted. Take Palm Beach and Broward Counties, parts of which I represent, for example. These school systems educate more students from prekindergarten through grade 12 than they can handle. Our schools are pushed to the limit, a limit that some consider to be critically overcrowded.

Mr. Speaker, the school doors are bursting at the seams in south Florida and around the Nation. Our schools need our help. Thus, America's leaders need to be partners in education. This partnership among Federal, State, and local governments should be based on a balance between leadership and local flexibility. The goal is to direct resources to the local level to help our communities build much needed schools to alleviate overcrowding.

It is crucial, Mr. Speaker, that we work together to find the necessary funds for our schools.

PREPARING AMERICA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton laid out an action plan to prepare America for the 21st century. We too need to dedicate ourselves to meeting the challenges that lie ahead, and among those challenges none is more crucial than that of providing all of our people with the opportunity to get the best education in the world. Our goal must be to ensure that a quality education is available and affordable to every American.

Making education available to all of our kids means setting rigorous national standards that stress the basics: reading, writing, and arithmetic. Making education affordable to all our people means passing a new college tuition tax deduction and creating new scholarships to help our families send their kids to college.

We all know that an educated work force is the key to our economic future. We have to invest in education, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the one thing that we must do if we are to continue to be a world economic power in the next century. Public education has been the great equalizer in this country. Let us continue to make it so to achieve economic opportunity.

PROVIDING PORTABILITY FOR MEDIGAP ENROLLEES

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in the last session of Congress we passed important legislation giving Americans access to portable insurance coverage regardless of their health status, but we did not extend these same protections to our senior and disabled constituents who are on Medicare. Yet no senior should be required to live in fear that unexpected medical bills will deprive them of financial independence.

That is why today I am introducing, along with 30 of my colleagues and with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a portability bill for the millions of senior citizens who supplement their Medicare coverage with private insurance.

I am pleased to say that a bill is being introduced in the Senate, sponsored by Senators ROCKEFELLER and CHAFEE, that is identical to this bill to speed the action of Congress to provide these critical protections to our seniors.

An estimated 10 million senior citizens, one-third of the total number of seniors on Medicare, rely on Medigap coverage to meet important health needs. Medigap insurance typically paid for prescription drugs and skilled nursing care. These are protections that our seniors deserve, and I ask your cosponsorship of my legislation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND THE ARMY

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after the Aberdeen revelations concerning sexual harassment, the Army brass came to the Women's Caucus and unequivocally pledged that they would never go back to discriminatory training of men and women. Yesterday, however, in the other body, the Army Chief of Staff, Dennis Reimer, suggested that they might be open to a reexamination of sex-integrated training.

Following recent revelations, one can understand their frustration, but, Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable to move back to the dark ages when there were two armies, one for men and one for women. The Army itself has field tested single-sex training and found that it improves the performance and morale of women with no negative effect on unit cohesion.

Look, if I get mugged outside of the Capitol, do not tell me not to walk down that street anymore. Make it safe. To the Army brass I say: Don't throw in the towel. Above all, don't throw the towel at women. They can die together, they can train together.

ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, last night after hearing the State of the Union I can tell you I am excited to see that the President is willing and ready to step forward for a nonpartisan commitment to education. Clearly in our country the No. 1 priority for the years ahead and for the generations that rest ahead of us is education. I think that the President was sincere in that.

I did sense some of what I would perceive as lack of sincerity in regards to campaign reform. I think if the President is serious about campaign reform the first thing he needs to do is take the Mr. Coffee machine out of the White House and the cash register out of the White House and observe the rules that we have for campaign fundraising in this country. I think we have to be very careful before we step into that.

But I do want to commend the President. I look forward to working with the White House and the administration in furthering the education needs of this country. That really is where we need to focus our resources.

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to sit in this Chamber last night and take part in the State of the Union Address by the President. I was extremely pleased that President Clinton focused so much of his speech on education.

As I watched the response of all my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to the President's educational proposals, I realize that we have a lot of common ground to work in. Making education opportunities more available to working families is a goal that is both bipartisan and crucial to the future success of our country. We must improve our educational systems for the children, college students, and adults who need to go back to school to learn new skills.

We are about to begin the 105th congressional session and this session must be about taking care of the needs of working families, and the only way we can take care of working families is by working in a bipartisan manner.

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The American people expect no less and certainly deserve no less.

HOUSE PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a local official in Portland, OR, we worked hard with employers, including government employers, to provide transit passes for our employees as an alternative to single

occupant vehicles. We found that transit pass programs improved morale, they decreased the demand for parking, helped clean air and decrease congestion, while saving our employees money.

Today I am introducing a resolution with broad bipartisan support that would give all House offices the option to participate in local transit programs, and employees here and at home, in every district, the opportunity to contribute to the liveability of their communities by using transit. I am embarrassed to say that the Senate has operated such a program since 1992, but be that as it may, it is time for the House to get on board.

No additional funds are needed in this resolution, since transit passes would be funded from existing House budgets. When we are asking employers across the country to step forward in the fight for clean air, we in the House must be prepared to do our part and to help our employees.

PASSING OF PAMELA HARRIMAN

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing of an outstanding and stellar member of our Nation's diplomatic corps.

Pamela Harriman was well known on the political scene in Washington for years, before President Clinton appointed her as our Ambassador to France, but her service in Paris made her a household word. All accounts agree that she was respected and loved by the people of France and that she had done much to bring our two nations closer together.

I had the pleasure of being with Mrs. Harriman on several occasions and found her to be an alert, well-informed spokesperson for America's global interests, and as you know, Harriman, NY, is part of my district, where the Harriman family has resided for many years.

As a widow of a former New York State Governor, Averill Harriman, we have a special place in our hearts for Pamela Harriman. Pamela Harriman will be sorely missed.

TOP PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, I stand to commend and to thank the President for the inspiring speech that he made last night. I was particularly impressed by what he said about the vision and goals to educate our children, to prepare them for the 21st century.

As a university professor at the University of California, I know the value

of a strong and well-rounded education. It is now more important than ever that our students learn how to read, to learn mathematics, know how to use a computer, to realize that all of them can get a college education, to support the junior colleges, and to create a society that values lifelong education.

The learning process has always been a top priority in my district. I am very pleased that education was the subject that got most attention in the President's State of the Union Address last night.

EDUCATION: A FEDERAL PRIORITY

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to give every child and adult in this country the same opportunity that all of us took for granted in our youth: A decent education. How many times does Congress need to hear the statistics illustrating that quality education is the underpinning of opportunity before it makes education a Federal priority?

When my grandfather was a boy, his eighth grade education prepared him to be vice president of the Rio Grande Railroad. When my mother was a young woman, her college degree prepared her to teach. Today I know my two young girls will not have a chance to compete or even to live comfortably without significant higher education. Yet everyday in our country, another child is left behind, illiteracy rates soar, and higher education grows further out of the financial reach of thousands. It would be laughable if it was not unforgivable that the U.S. Government spends less than 1 percent of its money on education. I urge the House to take this issue up immediately and with vigor.

CRUSADE FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last night our President proposed a new crusade on education. I rise today in support of that crusade. Every Member of this Congress has heard from their constituents about how hard it is today to pay for a college education, and about how necessary it is for our children to be introduced today to the technology they will need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Last night, President Clinton gave hope to all families facing the daunting challenge of paying for their child's college education. The President called upon this House to make more funds available so that all of our children may enter the information age. This is critical if we are to continue to be the economic superpower in the 21st century. It is my hope that no Member of